

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 03092 011534Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 OTPE-00

OMB-01 EB-07 /064 W

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R 011310Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4348

INFO USIA WASHINGTON

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 3092

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: THE PRESS ON US SATELLITE AND AID

1. WRITING FROM WASHINGTON, M.V. KAMATH ("TIMES OF INDIA" MARCH 1) CLAIMS THAT THE AMERICAN PRESS IS INCORRECTLY INTERPRETING THE REFUSAL OF THE USG TO RENEW THE ATS-6 EDUCATIONAL SATELLITE AS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED. KAMATH ARGUES THAT THIS ALLEGATION IS FALSE, AS THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT WAS LIMITED TO ONE YEAR, AND IT WAS MADE CLEAR TO THE GOI THAT THE SATELLITE WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR A LONGER PERIOD. HE POINTS OUT THAT THERE IS A GREAT DEMAND FOR THIS SATELLITE WITHIN THE US ITSELF. KAMATH IN HIS CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH ACKNOWLEDGES, HOWEVER, THE US HAS "POSTPONED A PLAN TO RESUME ECONOMIC AID TO INDIA TO THE TUNE OF SOME \$75 MILLION." HE CLAIMS, HOWEVER, INDIAN OFFICIALS "DO NOT LAY MUCH STORE BY IT."

2. THE ONLY OTHER MAJOR INDIAN PUBLICATION (SEVERAL SMALLER PAPERS PUBLISHED THE ORIGINAL STORY) TO REPORT ON THE USG'S AID DECISION, APART FROM SOME INDIRECT REFERENCES, WAS THE FEBRUARY

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 03092 011534Z

28 EDITION OF "BLITZ." UNDER THE HEADLINE, "DETENTE, US

STYLE." "BLITZ" ATTACKS THE US FOR "COOKING UP ALLEGATIONS" ABOUT EXCESSIVELY ANTI-AMERICANISM IN INDIA WHICH RESULTED IN THE SUSPENSION OF TALKS. THE 75 MILLION DOLLARS ENVISAGED FOR INDIA IN THE FOREIGN AID BILL, "BLITZ" SAYS, IS LIKELY TO BE HELD UP INDEFINITELY.

3. COMMENT: THE "BLITZ" ARTICLE APPEARED ON PAGE 10 BUT IN BOLD TYPE, WHILE THE "TIMES OF INDIA" STORY RECEIVED FRONT PAGE TREATMENT. THE GOI CENSORS HAVE PRESUMABLY ADOPTED A POLICY OF ALLOWING THE AID STORY TO FILTER OUT SLOWLY. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT MOST OF THE POLITICALLY CONCERNED PUBLIC IS NOW AWARE OF WASHINGTON'S DECISION ON AID. THE GOI CONTINUES TO AVOID ANY DIRECT COMMENT OR REACTION ON EITHER AID OR THE SATELLITE.
SAXBE

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